

# **New Pulaski Co. ATC Lauded as “Investment in Building Careers”**

**The official ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Pulaski Co. ATC was held on August 18 in Somerset. The well planned event was hailed as a great day for Pulaski Co. as well as an “*Investment in Building Careers*” by special guest speaker, the Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor of Kentucky.**

**Laura E. Owens, Education Cabinet Secretary, was on hand to take part in the festivities and applauded the efforts of Governor Fletcher, members of the general assembly including Senator Vernie McGaha, Pulaski Co. Superintendent Tim Eaton and members of the Pulaski Co. School Board**



**Photo: Governor Ernie Fletcher (middle) officially cuts the ribbon of the new Pulaski Co. ATC along with (l to r) Superintendent Tim Eaton, Education Cabinet Secretary Laura Owens, State Representative Tommy Turner, State Senator Vernie McGaha and OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley.**

**for their commitment to education. She relayed that today's area technology centers are not the same schools that people have known in the past, but are now high tech, touch 129 school systems and serve between 25-30 thousand students in the state of Kentucky.**

**“The marriage of applied technology and academics has proven to be beneficial. Studies show that by coordinating academic concepts with the vocational subject area, students are more likely to succeed when confronted with other academic concepts,” said Owens. “As we have become engulfed in sophisticated technological advances, technical education has kept track with those advances. Students are trained on everything from computerized welders to advanced information technology programs to some of the most up to date medical equipment being used today through the help of local school districts, local economic development groups and local business and industry partners.”**

**Building an area technology center has been a goal of Eaton's since he was appointed to his position in 2000. He has**



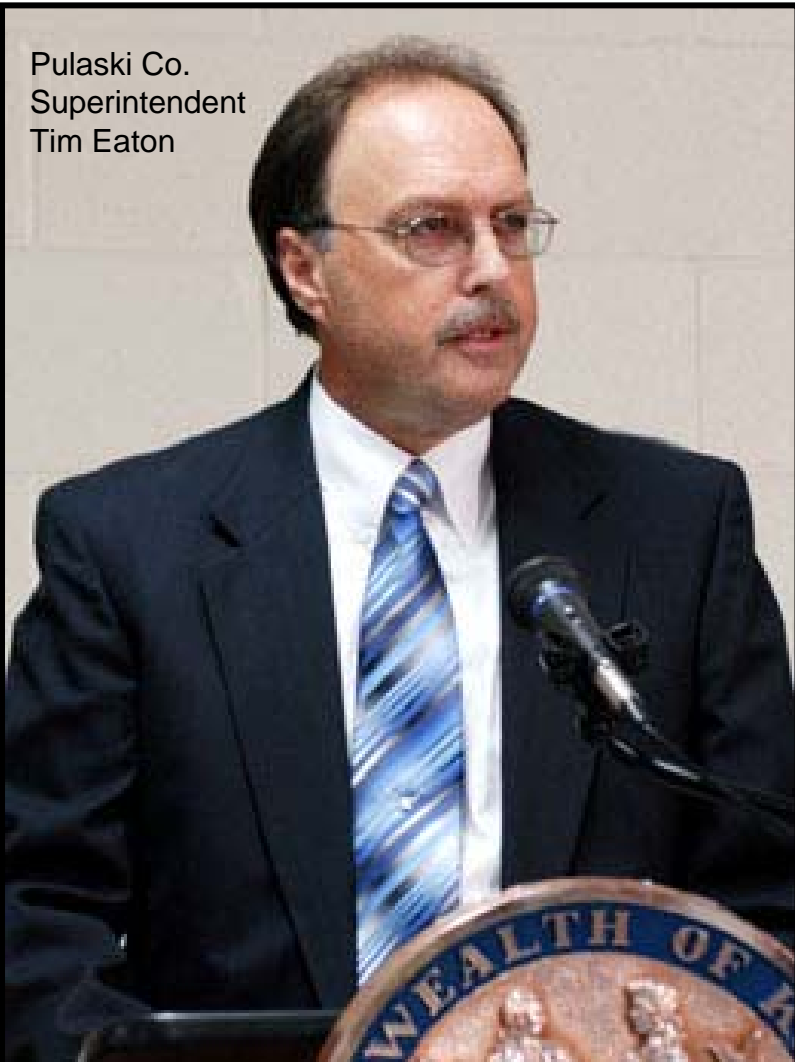
**Education Cabinet Secretary Laura E. Owens**

**always understood the importance of improving partnerships with local businesses and government to develop a stronger workforce for a growing community. Eaton and Pulaski Co. Board of Education members felt that their district needed to work for an area technology center to provide students with opportunities that would allow them to pursue careers at home and to**

**start preparing for successful transition into the community workforce and/or post secondary career training. The vision has become a reality.**

**“I began discussing this need with Senator Vernie McGaha, who then extended an invitation for us to testify before the Sub-Committee on Vocational Education in Frankfort. Pulaski Co. Board Vice Chairman Helen Hansford and Marlene Haney, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction accompanied me to Frankfort to present our needs to the committee,” said Eaton. “This has been a huge team effort with many players involved from beginning discussions to the end result. The ATC is unique in that we were able to purchase an existing facility and renovate it into an**

Pulaski Co.  
Superintendent  
Tim Eaton



**educational facility for approximately half the cost of new construction. Our students will benefit greatly from this endeavor.”**



**“I know I am not alone in the view that an open, honest and hardworking partnership among legislators, state education leaders and local school district officials is the answer to providing the best educational opportunities for our youth,” said OSTE Executive Director David Billingsley. “This new center is the result of sustained efforts by many and investments from a variety of stakeholders. The five program areas offered at this school will provide students with an opportunity to transition into a postsecondary education institution or directly into a workforce career ”**

**Photo at left: OSTE Executive Director David Billingsley**

**“It was a great day for Pulaski Co. Schools as the ribbon cutting ceremony for Pulaski Co. Area Technology Center served as an official announcement to the community that it is open for business - the business of supporting Pulaski Co. schools to prepare students for the world that awaits them,” said OSTE Area Supervisor Clifford Wells. “Everyone associated with the planning, construction, and equipping the facility has put his/her best effort into bringing the facility to reality. We are fortunate to be working with a school district that recognizes the tremendous value technical education adds to their efforts to provide educational services to students in Pulaski Co.”**



**“Everyone has helped transform this building into a school and the support has been outstanding at the community, district and state levels. My staff and I are proud of the advances we have all made and look**



**forward to setting new benchmarks,” says Pulaski Co. ATC Principal Beth Hargis. “This has been a great team effort among a variety of people. Our local superintendent, Mr. Tim Eaton, has made this a priority in the district; and, Mr. Clifford Wells, our KY Tech area supervisor, has walked us through the whole process of ordering equipment so that our students could begin working on the first day of school. We have wonderful leaders who are easy to follow because we are all on the same page – developing students by providing technical education and skills training in a safe environment.**

**Another person who has worked tirelessly is our Admin. Secretary Beverly Conatser. She is awesome.”**

**Photo at left: Beth Hargis congratulated all her students and thanked them for their help with the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony.**



**Pulaski Co. ATC  
Principal Beth Hargis**



**Photo at left: Automotive Technology Instructor Gerald Brinson gives Governor Fletcher a quick lesson about the engine under the hood of a brand new corvette.**



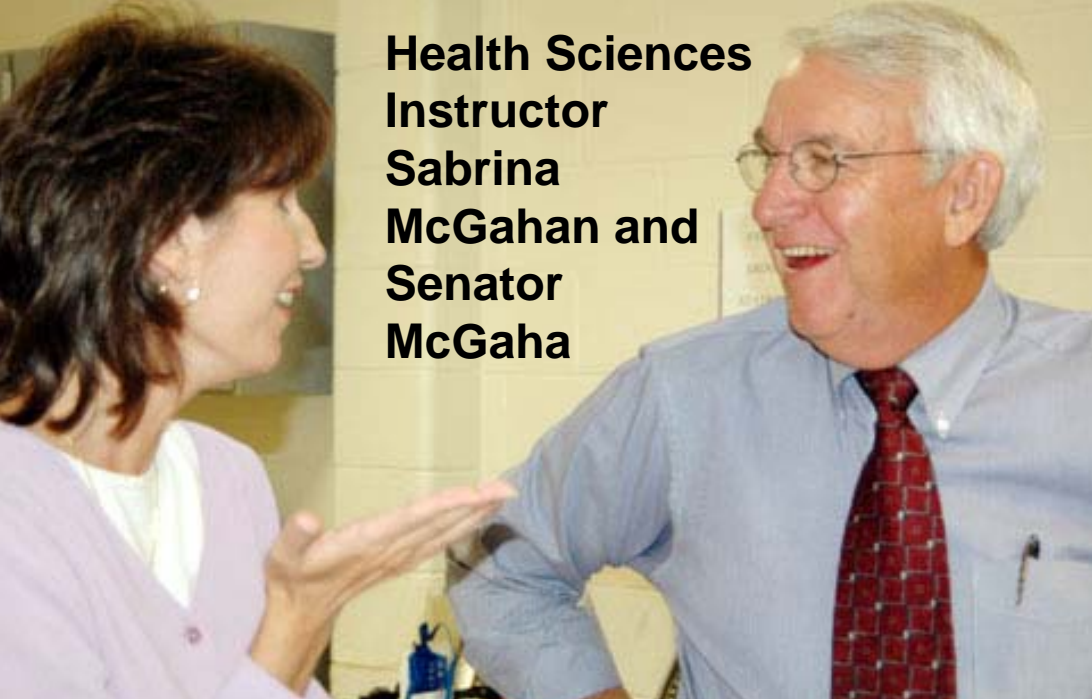
**Above photo (l to r): Gerald Brinson, Trey Dick, information technology student and tour guide; Amy Polston, Nancy Elementary School principal; and Margaret Mauney, Pulaski Co. elementary supervisor.**

## **Carpentry Instructor Carlos Super**

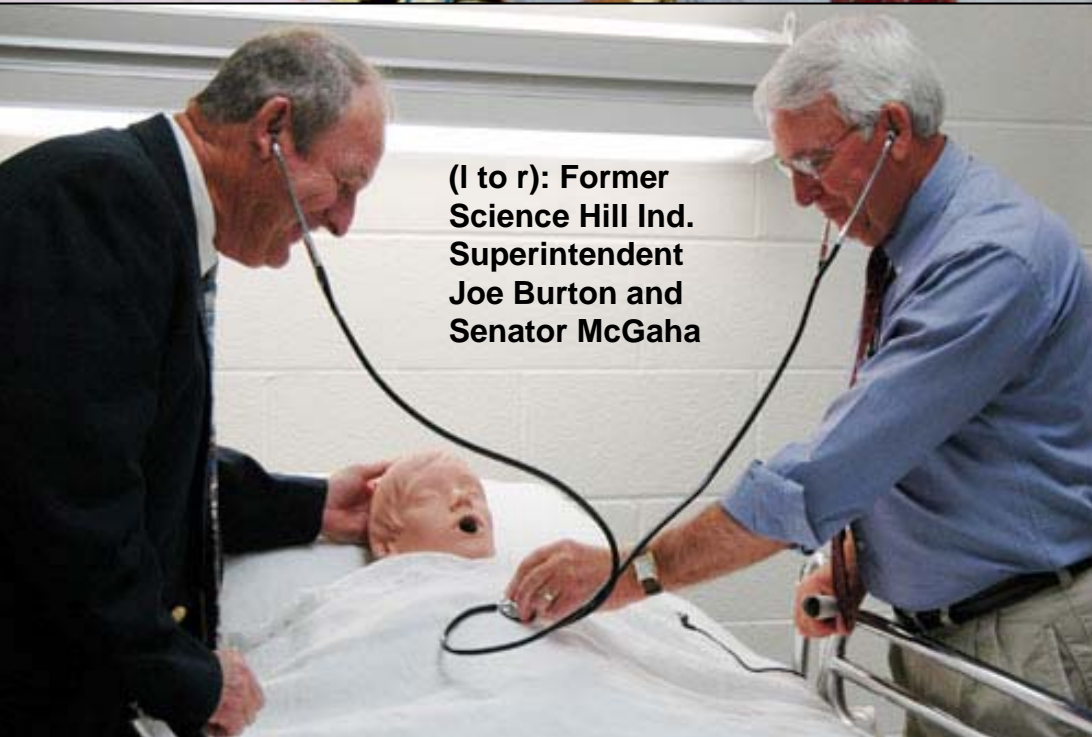


**Photo: Pulaski Co. Superintendent Tim Eaton discusses the advantages of having a carpentry program with Governor Fletcher. On right, OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley.**





**Health Sciences  
Instructor  
Sabrina  
McGahan and  
Senator  
McGaha**



**(l to r): Former  
Science Hill Ind.  
Superintendent  
Joe Burton and  
Senator McGaha**



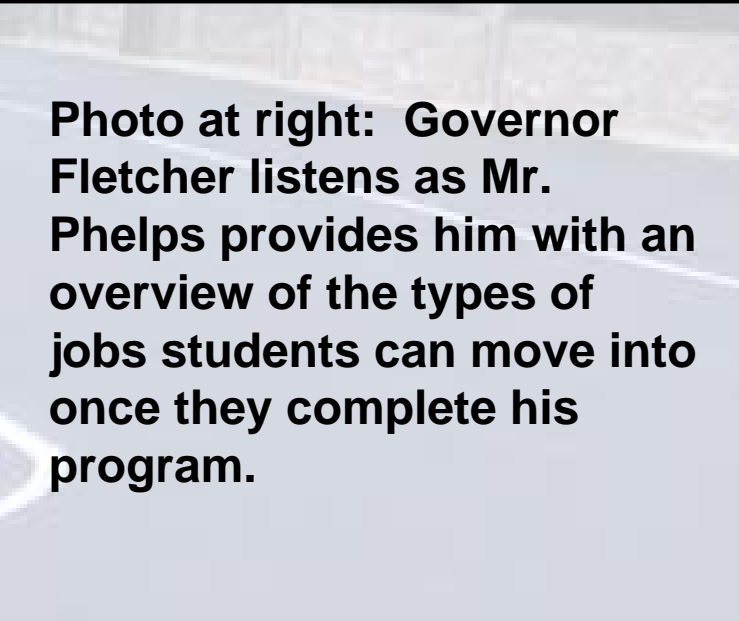
**Senator Vernie McGaha looks at  
the stethoscopes that students  
will be using in the classroom.**





## **Information Technology Instructor Doug Phelps**

**Photo at left: Phelps  
provides Darryl McGaha and  
Senator Vernie McGaha with  
some insight of what  
students will be learning in  
his classroom.**



**Photo at right: Governor  
Fletcher listens as Mr.  
Phelps provides him with an  
overview of the types of  
jobs students can move into  
once they complete his  
program.**





**Photo at left: Welding Instructor Scott Johnson points out the quality of equipment and size of his laboratory to Governor Fletcher and Superintendent Eaton.**

**Photo at right: During special guided tours of the facility, Mr. Johnson provided information to participants about a career in welding.**



**Good News Story #174  
September 21, 2006**